

cord attached at one end to a housing, and the housing including a battery charging receptacle, an electrical socket for powering corded tools; and a reel structure for stowing the extension cord when not deployed for use. Although the independent claims are amended, the added limitations are not substantially different than those in dependent claims already rejected, therefore the Applicant addresses below the 35 USC 103(a) rejection over JP 3037182U in view of US 5,923,146 to Martensson.

35 USC 103(a) Rejection Over JP 3037182U In View of US 5,923,146 to Martensson

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-11, 17, 22-24, and 26 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Japanese utility model JP3037182 in view of US 5,923,146 to Martensson ("Martensson '146").

Amended claim 1 (here rearranged) requires: An electrical extension lead, comprising:

- an electrical cable having a first end and a second end;

- a storage structure including a reel housing and the cable is stored by wrapping it around the storage structure;

- a plug socket arrangement connected to the first end of the cable and mounted on the storage structure and arranged for supplying electricity to electrical devices:

- an electrical plug for connection to electrical supply sources and connected to the second end of the cable; and

- a battery pack charging assembly connected to the first end of the cable and mounted on the storage structure, the charging assembly including a receptacle for holding and charging removable battery packs for powering electrical devices.

Amended claims 21 and 39 include similar limitations.

JP 3037182U does not include a reel for storing the extension cord. The Examiner states that it would have been obvious to modify the JP 3037182 in view of Martensson so as wrap the cable of JP 3037182 in the manner taught by Martensson. The Applicant disagrees that this combination is suggested or motivated by either reference.

JP 3037182U (“JP ‘182”) discloses a battery charger 2 and plurality of receptacle 4 sockets in a common housing 1 at the end of an extension cord. The JP ‘182 cord 3 is neither depicted nor described as particularly long, so as to make reel storage desirable. In deed, JP ‘182 indicates that the object of its invention is simply to avoid a battery charger taking up a valuable outlet that may be needed to supply other loads. See JP 182 Translation Para 3 “Problem To Be Solved.” In this regard it suggests the desirability of keeping the “power strip” close to the mains source socket. It does not anywhere suggest the desirability of locating the charger/sockets so far from the mains source as to make reel storage of a long AC extension cord desirable.

Martensson ‘146, even more than JP ‘182, discloses a device that remains close to the mains source. In fact, the Martensson charging unit plugs directly to the mains socket via plug pins 5. Martensson ‘146 col. 3 lines 55-64. Martensson does not have an AC extension cord at all between its charger 1 and the mains source. The cord 13/113/213/31/413 in Martensson does not connect the charger to the mains power source, but rather it is a DC cord that connects the charging unit 1 to a remote apparatus with a battery needing charging. Martensson ‘146 col. 3 lines 43-54. Neither JP ‘182 nor the subject application include a DC charging cord or contemplate performing that function. Additionally, it is obvious that the Martensson device is much smaller in scale and designed for the needs of small rechargeable devices, such as cell phones. Martensson ‘146 col. 1 lines 5-7. Thus, Martensson ‘146 would not motivate or suggest the need to provide a reel for the storage of substantial length of AC extension cord.

The Applicant recognizes that the subject claims do not require a particular length of AC extension cord, but they do require a cord storage reel or coiling structure, so the question is whether the cited references suggest or motivate modifying JP ‘182 to include a reel for storing its AC extension cord. For the reasons articulated above, neither JP 3037182 nor Martensson ‘146, alone or in combination, suggest or motivate providing a housing located at the end of a substantial length of AC

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extension cord, the housing incorporating a battery back charger, one or more AC electrical outlets, and a reel for storing the AC extension cord.

Since the Applicant believes that by amendment and argument he has established the novelty and allowability of all three independent claims 1, 21, and 39 over the Examiner's previous grounds for rejections, he does not here address some of the other 35 USC 103(a) grounds for rejection raised in the preceding Office Action.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted



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